

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 /089 W

----- 129739

R 270635Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6037

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 229

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS GABORONE 1627

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, RH, ZA, BC

SUBJ: SHOOTING AT THE KAZUNGULA FERRY

REF: LUSAKA 2432

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. RE PARA 5 REFTTEL FOLLOWING ARTICLE FROM GOVERNMENT-PUBLISHED
BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS OF NOVEMBER 26, MAY BE OF HELP.

2. QUOTE: AT LEAST THREE BOMBS AND TWO BULLETS LANDED IN
BOTSWANA DURING LAST WEEK'S EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN ZAMBIAN
SECURITY FORCES AT KAZUNGULA AND SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES STATIONED
IN RHODESIA ADJACENT TO THE BOTSWANA BORDER.

NOBODY WAS INJURED, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IN
GABORONE. A SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ON NOVEMBER 20 AT 1325 HOURS
THERE WAS LONG EXCHANGE OF FIRE ACROSS THE ZAMBESI RIVER BETWEEN
ZAMBIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES. EYE-WITNESSES SAID THE FIRING
WAS STARTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS. TWO BULLETS HIT THE ENGINE
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ROOM AT THE KAZUNGULA POLICE STATION IN BOTSWANA. AFTER A PAUSE,

AT 1345 HOURS A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF FIRE AGAIN STARTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS ABCCURED. MORTAR BOMBS WERE THEN FIRED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND WERE SEEN TO EXPLODE ON THE ZAMBIAN SIDE NEAR ONE OF THE ARMY STRONG POINTS.

ABOUT 20 BOMBS WERE FIRED. THE SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES ALSO FIRED LONG BURSTS OF MACHINE-GUN FIRE BUT THERE WAS LITTLE RETURN OF FIRE FROM THE ZAMBIAN SIDE. AT ABOUT 1450 HOURS A FURTHER INCIDENT OCCURED WHEN THE ZAMBIANS COMMENCED MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS FIRE. THE SOUTH AFRICANS EXCHANGED MORTAR FIRE AND THREE BOMBS FIRED FROM THE ZAMBIAN SIDE WERE SEEN TO LAND IN BOTSWANA ABOUT 100 METRES BEHIND THE KAZUNGULA POLICE STATION. NO ONE WAS INJURED BY THESE BOMBS.

TWO FURTHER INCIDENTS OCCURED AT 1555 AND 1625 HOURS WHEN THERE WERE FURTHER EXCHANGES OF SMALL ARMS FIRE BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND ZAMBIAN FORCES. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE SAID THE EXCHANGE OF FIRE AT KAZUNGULA WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND. HE ADDED THAT A "PROTECTION WALL" HAS BEEN COMPLETED A FEW WEEKS EARLIER TO SHELTER THE BOTSWANA POLICE KAZUNGULA STATION. END QUOTE.

3. WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THERE WAS ADDITIONAL SPORADIC FIRING NOVEMBER 23, IN SAME VICINITY.
BOLEN

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